

Harris vows 'we're not going back'

Associated Press

WEST ALLIS, Wis. — A roaring crowd of battleground state voters greeted Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday as she opened her public case against Republican former President Donald Trump by declaring November's election will be "a choice between freedom and chaos."

"In this campaign, I promise you, I will proudly put my record against his any day of the week," Harris said. "We believe in a future where every person has the opportunity not just to get by, but to get ahead."

Harris arrived in the Milwaukee area having locked up nomination support from Democratic delegates after President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid on Sunday. It was her first campaign rally since she jumped into the race just two days ago with Biden's endorsement.

The event reflected a vibrancy that had been lacking among

Democrats in recent weeks, and Harris was intent on projecting a sense of steady confidence about the November election. She's pulled in \$100 million in donations since Sunday afternoon and on Tuesday picked up the backing of more Democratic officials and political groups, including congressional leaders Charles Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries.

By stopping in Wisconsin, Harris was putting down a marker in one of the "blue wall" states along with Michigan and Pennsylvania that Democrats see as essential for securing a presidential victory.

The visit comes a week after the Republican National Convention wrapped up in the city and as Harris works to sharpen her message against the GOP nominee with just over 100 days until Election Day.

Harris' trip to the state was a sharp contrast to Biden's July 6 visit, when he was trying to reassure Democrats who were

wary after his troubling performance in the June 27 debate against Trump. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who is up for reelection this year, had skipped the Biden event, but she spoke before Harris on Tuesday.

Harris is leaning into her resume as a former district attorney and California attorney general, seeking to draw a contrast with Trump who is the first former president to be convicted of felony crimes.

"She's prepared to meet this moment because she was professionally trained to prosecute a criminal, and unfortunately, that's who the Republicans have put forward," said Sen. Laphonza Butler, D-Calif.

Harris strode onto the stage Tuesday to the anthem "Freedom" from Beyonce's "Lemonade" album and set about contrasting herself with Trump.

"I took on perpetrators of all kinds. Predators who abused women. Fraudsters who ripped off consumers. Cheaters who

broke the rules for their own gain. So hear me when I say, I know Donald Trump's type," she said.

Harris cast her campaign as a "people first" endeavor, again aiming to draw a contrast with Trump, who she said represented special interests and corporations.

She also portrayed her rival's policies as being antiquated and backward looking. "We are not going back," she said. "And I'll tell you why we are not going back. Ours is a fight for the future." That echoed Barack Obama, who frequently deployed the refrain during his 2012 reelection fight to argue against Republican ideas.

Harris' swift ascent over the past few days has required her to vet possible running mates, a process being led by Eric Holder, who was attorney general during Barack Obama's presidency. But her key impact so far has been galvanizing Democrats.

Police boss: Officers left post to look for rally gunman

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two local law enforcement officers stationed in the complex of buildings where a gunman opened fire at former President Donald Trump left to go search for the man before the shooting, the head of Pennsylvania State Police said Tuesday, raising questions about whether a key post was left unattended as the shooter climbed onto a roof.

Pennsylvania State Police Col. Christopher Paris told a congressional committee that two Butler County Emergency Services Unit officers were stationed at a

second-floor window in the complex of buildings that form AGR International Inc. They spotted Thomas Matthew Crooks acting suspiciously on the ground and left their post to look for him along with other law enforcement officers, he said.

Paris said he didn't know whether officers would have been able to see Crooks climbing onto the roof of an adjacent building had they remained at the window. A video taken by a lawmaker who visited the shooting site on Monday shows a second-story window of the building had a clear view of the roof where

Crooks opened fire; it was unclear if the video showed the window where the officers had been stationed.

The Pennsylvania State Police commissioner's testimony before the House Homeland Security Committee provides new insight into security preparations for the Trump rally in Butler, Pa., on July 13, but raises further questions about law enforcement's decisions before Crooks opened fire.

The revelation comes amid growing questions about a multitude of security failures that allowed the 20-year-old gunman to

get onto the roof and fire eight shots with an AR-style rifle into the crowd shortly after Trump began speaking. One spectator was killed and two others were injured. Trump suffered an ear injury but was not seriously hurt.

Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned Tuesday, a day after she was berated for hours by Democrats and Republicans over the agency's failure to protect the Republican presidential nominee.

Several investigations into the shooting by the Biden administration and lawmakers are underway.

Medical reasons cited in move from Cole

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

The commanding officer of a Navy destroyer in the Middle East was transferred earlier this week to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt for undisclosed medical reasons, according to the service.

Cmdr. Tim Clark, commanding officer of USS Cole, was transported to Roosevelt on Sunday, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet said in a statement Tuesday.

Capt. Ryan Leary, deputy commodore of Destroyer Squadron 23, temporarily assumed command of Cole, according to the statement, which did not indicate the seriousness of Clark's medical condition.

The Navy couldn't say Wednesday if Clark was still aboard the Roosevelt or receiving medical treatment.

Officials declined to say if Clark's condition was serious or stable, citing policy to not discuss specific medical matters of ser-

vice members.

The service also couldn't say how Clark was transferred to Roosevelt or if he would be taken to another location.

Homeported in Norfolk, Va., Cole is on a scheduled deployment to the 5th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman.

Since at least November, the Navy has kept a nearly continuous presence in the Red Sea as part of the Operation Prosperity Guardian mission to protect ships

in the waterway against Houthi militant attacks.

Last month, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group left the area after nearly seven months.

It returned to Norfolk on July 14 after a historic nine-month deployment.

The Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group entered the 5th Fleet area of responsibility July 12. On Monday, the group was in the Gulf of Aden, according to a USNI News report the same day.

Taiwan prepares for strong typhoon that hit Philippines

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A typhoon killed three people in Taiwan as it approached the island on Wednesday, while people trapped by rising floodwaters in the Philippines called for help in the Southeast Asian nation where at least 13 died.

Taiwan's Central News Agency said more than 220 other people were injured as Typhoon Gaemi gathered strength and

brought strong winds and heavy rain.

Schools, offices and tourist sites closed across Taiwan, while air travelers rushed to board overseas flights. Airlines said many flights to Japan, China and other regional destinations would be canceled on Thursday. No trains will operate until 3 p.m., the Central News Agency reported.

Gaemi, called Carina in the

Philippines, did not make landfall in that archipelago but enhanced its seasonal monsoon rains. They set off at least a dozen landslides and floods over five days, killing at least eight and displacing 600,000 people, the country's disaster risk mitigation agency said.

The bodies of a pregnant woman and three children were dug out Wednesday morning after a landslide buried a rural

shanty in the mountainside town of Agoncillo in Batangas province. A rice porridge vendor was hit by a falling tree in another Batangas town Tuesday night.

A spokesperson for the Philippine coast guard, Rear Admiral Armando Balilo, said they have been overwhelmed with pleas from residents in the capital to be rescued. Some waited on rooftops.

Command sergeant major arrested on child porn charges

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

An Army battalion command sergeant major at Fort Novosel, Ala., has been arrested by local police on child pornography charges, police and military officials said Tuesday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Prescott, 41, was charged July 18 in Enterprise, Ala., with possession of child pornography and production of obscene matter depicting persons under 17 years old, Enterprise Police Department officials said in a statement. Prescott was suspended from his position as the

senior enlisted leader for Fort Novosel's 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment the day after his arrest, a spokeswoman for the installation said.

Police said the investigation into Prescott was ongoing, and "additional charges are pending." They did not specify what other charges Prescott could face. The child pornography possession charge carries a potential 10-year prison sentence in Alabama, and the production charge carries a potential 20-year sentence, according to state law.

Jail records show Prescott

was released on bond July 19 from the Coffee County jail.

Prescott became the Fort Novosel 1-233rd Aviation battalion's top enlisted soldier in May, according to Army documents. The battalion primarily trains pilots to fly the CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter, according to the service.

The Fort Novosel spokeswoman said service records for Prescott were not immediately available Tuesday. Prescott previously served as an operations sergeant major at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia and had served at Fort Carson,

Colo., and Fort Bliss, Texas, according to his biography, which had been removed from the Fort Novosel website by Tuesday.

An Army spokesman said the service had not opened a separate investigation into Prescott, but he did not rule that out. Production of child pornography carries a stiffer penalty under military law — up to 30 years imprisonment.

It was not clear Tuesday when Prescott would face a judge or if he had hired an attorney to represent him in the case.

Netanyahu visit to DC sparks protests

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of protesters rallied Wednesday within sight of the Capitol building, denouncing Israel's war in Gaza and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hours before he was set to address members of Congress.

Protesters carrying signs that read "arrest Netanyahu" and "end all US aid to Israel" shouted "Free, free Palestine," a day after a sit-in at a congressional office building that ended with multiple arrests.

Several protesters erected a large effigy of Netanyahu with devil horns and blood dripping from its mouth. Police lining Pennsylvania Avenue led away several protesters who were sitting in the street.

Protest leaders said six intersections leading to the Capitol have been "claimed by the Palestinian people." Organizers had said in advance that they would try to block Netanyahu's route to the building.

Zeina Hutchinson, director of development for the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, read off the names of several Palestinian journalists killed by the Israeli military.

"We protest this homicidal maniac, his supporters and his enablers," she shouted from the stage. "And we demand his arrest."

Some of the demonstrations have condemned Israel, but others have expressed support while pressing Netanyahu to strike a cease-fire deal in the

war with Hamas and bring home the hostages still being held by the militant group.

The Capitol Police said about 200 people were arrested Tuesday on charges stemming from the sit-in at the Cannon House Office Building. Jewish Voice for Peace said many more than that were arrested, rabbis among them.

Police have significantly boosted security around the Capitol and closed multiple roads for most of the week. Workers erected a black metal fence around the White House on Wednesday morning.

Dozens of protesters rallied outside Netanyahu's hotel Monday evening after his arrival in Washington, and on Tuesday afternoon, hundreds of demon-

strators staged a flashmob-style protest in the Cannon building, which houses offices of House members.

Organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, protesters wearing red T-shirts that read "Not In Our Name" took over the building's rotunda, sat on the floor, unfurled signs and chanted "Let Gaza Live!"

Biden and Netanyahu are expected to meet Thursday, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity before a White House announcement. Vice President Kamala Harris will also meet Netanyahu separately that day.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said on Truth Social that he would meet with Netanyahu on Friday.

Crowdstrike blames bug for letting bad data in

Associated Press

CrowdStrike is blaming a bug in an update that allowed its cybersecurity systems to push bad data out to millions of customer computers, setting off last week's global tech outage that grounded flights, took TV broadcasts off air and disrupted banks, hospitals and retailers.

CrowdStrike also outlined measures it would take to prevent the problem from recurring, including staggering the rollout of updates, giving customers more control over when and where they occur, and providing more details about the updates that it plans.

The company on Wednesday posted details online from its "preliminary post incident review" of the outage, which caused chaos for the many businesses that pay for the cybersecurity firm's software services.

The problem involved an "undetected error" in the con-

tent configuration update for its Falcon platform affecting Windows machines, the Texas company said.

A bug in the content validation system allowed "problematic content data" to be deployed to CrowdStrike's customers. That triggered an "unexpected exception" that caused a Windows operating system crash, the company said.

As part of the new prevention measures, CrowdStrike said it's also beefing up internal testing as well as putting in place "a new check" to stop "this type of problematic content" from being deployed again.

CrowdStrike has said a "significant number" of the approximately 8.5 million computers that crashed on Friday, causing global disruptions, are back in operation as customers and regulators await a more detailed explanation of what went wrong.

Study: Long COVID risk decreased, still significant

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The risk of developing long COVID — enduring, sometimes punishing symptoms that linger well after a coronavirus infection — has decreased since the start of the pandemic, a new study found, with the drop particularly evident among those who are vaccinated.

But the dip does not mean the risk of developing long COVID has vanished.

And given the rise in new infections, particularly during periods like now, when data indicate transmission is elevated, even a lower rate of prevalence means many Americans risk developing symptoms that can last months or years after their initial infection clears.

"We have people in the clinic here with long COVID, and they're significantly affected, and some of them are profoundly disabled," said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, chief of research and devel-

opment at the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System in Missouri.

The study, published July 17 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that 10.4% of people who were infected early in the pandemic suffered from long COVID symptoms a year after their acute infection.

But during the Omicron era, which began in mid-December 2021 when that variant became the dominant version of the coronavirus circulating worldwide, 3.5% of vaccinated people suffered from long COVID a year after their infection, as did 7.8% of unvaccinated people.

"It's good news," said Al-Aly, a coauthor of the study. "Long COVID is on the descent. It's declining and has gone down over the course of the pandemic."

But it's still a concern that long COVID rates remain as high as they are, Al-Aly said, especially as COVID "is still affecting millions of people."

Secret Service encourages Trump campaign to keep rallies indoors

Associated Press

Secret Service officials encouraged Donald Trump's campaign to stop scheduling large outdoor rallies and other outdoor events with big crowds after the assassination attempt on the former president in Butler, Pa., according to people familiar with the matter.

In the aftermath of the shooting, agents from the Secret Service communicated their concerns about large outdoor rallies going forward to Trump campaign advisers, three people familiar with the matter said.

The people familiar with the matter spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

For upcoming events, Trump's team is scouting indoor venues, such as basketball arenas and other large spaces where thousands of people can fit, people familiar with the request said.

The campaign is not currently planning any large outdoor events, a person close to

Trump said.

A Trump campaign spokeswoman declined to comment. A spokesman for the Secret Service said the agency does not comment on its protective methods.

Trump has held hundreds of outdoor rallies since launching his first presidential bid, often bragging about — and sometimes falsely inflating — his large crowds. They have become something of a cult favorite among his most passionate fans, with tailgate parties in parking lots, vendors lining open areas near the rally and large parades of traffic.

They usually include large rosters of speakers before Trump takes the stage, with crowds sometimes enduring the heat or the cold for many hours. The crowd sometimes departs before Trump, who is regularly late, finishes speaking.

Sarah Matthews, a former Trump spokeswoman turned critic, said Trump would often get upset if people were not

moved past the magnetometers quickly enough and the outdoor venues were not filling up quickly enough.

"We've seen from the early days of his presidency even, and before that during his first campaign in 2016, how important crowd size is to him. It gives him a lot of joy and energy being with large crowds," said Matthews, who served as a deputy press secretary in the Trump White House.

Indoor rallies are more expensive, campaign advisers said.

The rallies have long been viewed as onerous by the Secret Service because they include complicated outdoor venues with thousands of people.

Most other former presidents rarely appear in public, and when they do, they usually appear in settings such as conferences and restaurants with fewer people.

Trump requires a much larger security footprint than other past presidents because he holds so many large events.

Whale capsizes boat off NH coast

Associated Press

RYE, N.H. — Two fishermen are safe after a whale crashed onto their boat, capsizing it off the New Hampshire shore, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The incident occurred Tuesday near Odiome Point State Park in Rye.

The two men, who were thrown overboard, said they had seen the whale earlier and were trying to keep their distance.

"He went under, he disappeared for a few minutes, and then the next thing we know, he just popped right up on our transom," fisherman Ryland Kenney told WMUR-TV.

The Coast Guard posted to X that they had received a mayday call stating that a 23-foot center console boat had turned over because of a whale breach.

"The occupants were ejected from the vessel as the boat capsized," the Coast Guard posted, adding that an urgent marine information broadcast was issued and the Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor was alerted.

"A good Samaritan recovered both individuals from the water. No injuries were reported," the Coast Guard posted.

The rescuers turned out to be two young brothers.

"I saw it come up, and I was just like, 'Oh, it's going to hit the boat,'" Wyatt Yager told the station. "It started to flip." His brother, Colin Yager, caught what happened on his phone.

The boat crew from Station Portsmouth reported that the whale did not appear to be injured.

GOP leaders urge colleagues to avoid racist, sexist attacks against Harris

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican leaders are warning party members against using overtly racist and sexist attacks against Vice President Kamala Harris, as they and former President Donald Trump's campaign scramble to adjust to the reality of a new Democratic rival less than four months before Election Day.

At a meeting of House Republicans on Tuesday, National Republican Congressional Committee chairman Richard Hudson, R-N.C., urged lawmakers to

stick to criticizing Harris for her role in Biden-Harris administration policies.

"This election will be about policies and not personalities," House Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters after the meeting.

"This is not personal with regard to Kamala Harris," he added, "and her ethnicity or her gender have nothing to do with this whatsoever."

The warnings point to the new risks for Republicans in running against a Democrat who would become the first woman, first Black woman and first per-

son of South Asian decent to win the White House. Trump, in particular, has a history of racist and misogynistic attacks that could turn off key groups of swing voters, including suburban women, as well as voters of color and younger people Trump's campaign has been courting.

The admonitions came after some members and Trump allies began to cast Harris, a former district attorney, attorney general and senator, as a "DEI" hire — a reference to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Largest trial court closes after cyberattack

CA LOS ANGELES — The largest trial court in the country was closed Monday after a ransomware attack shut down its computer system late last week, officials with the Superior Court of Los Angeles County said.

The court disabled its computer network upon discovery of the cybersecurity attack early Friday, and the system remained down through the weekend. Courts remained open for business Friday, but officials said all 36 courthouse locations in the county would be closed Monday. Officials said Monday night that all 36 courthouses would reopen on Tuesday.

The attack was not believed to be related to the faulty CrowdStrike software update that disrupted airlines, hospitals and governments around the world, officials said in a statement Friday.

FBI: Man, woman may be linked to wildfires

NM RUIDOSO — A wildfire that burned more than 12 square miles in southern New Mexico last month was human-caused and two people may be to blame, federal authorities said Monday.

The FBI said a man and woman may be linked to a vehicle seen fleeing from at least five other wildfires near the village of Ruidoso over a six-week span.

The names of the couple have not been released because they haven't been charged, according to authorities.

FBI investigators said there have been 16 wildfires between May 3 to June 18 in the Mescalero Apache Reservation and all are believed to be human-caused.

Watchdog who blasted NYPD discipline resigns

NY NEW YORK — The head of an oversight board that investigates allegations of misconduct by New York City police officers announced her resignation Monday, ending a tenure in which she had publicly criticized the NYPD's handling of a major disciplinary case and sought to expand the panel's authority.

Arva Rice, the interim chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, didn't give a reason for her resignation, but her departure has been widely expected since early spring. A person briefed on the situation said Rice learned in April that Mayor Eric Adams, a former police captain, wanted her out of the post. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss personnel decisions.

Rice's departure, effective Aug. 15, drew immediate protest from police reform advocates.

Bodyguard accused of fraud, false statements

LA NEW ORLEANS — Federal prosecutors are accusing a former New Orleans police officer of hiding a romantic relationship with Mayor LaToya Cantrell and filing false payroll records claiming he was on duty as one of her

bodyguards during hours they spent together on trips abroad, at restaurants and at a city-owned French Quarter apartment.

Jeffrey Vappie was indicted Friday on charges of wire fraud and making false statements. He is tentatively set for his first court appearance next week. His lawyers declared his innocence in an emailed statement on Monday. Vappie announced his retirement from the New Orleans police department last month.

Cantrell has not been charged. She declined comment in a statement issued by City Hall.

Man sentenced in breakout, fatal brawl

PA PHILADELPHIA — A man convicted of helping two other men escape prison while he was in custody over a fatal brawl among soccer fans outside a famed Philadelphia cheesesteak restaurant has been sentenced in both cases.

Court documents indicate that Jose Flores-Huerta, 36, was sentenced in the escape case Thursday to 11½ months to 23 months plus probation.

Flores-Huerta was convicted of helping Ameen Hurst, 18, and Nasir Grant, 24, who cut a hole in a fence surrounding a recreation yard at the Philadelphia Industrial Correction Center in May 2023.

Hurst and Grant were gone for nearly 19 hours before officials knew they were missing. Both were recaptured days later; Hurst was being held in four homicides and other crimes, authorities said.

Flores-Huerta and Omar Arce, 35, also pleaded guilty Thursday to voluntary manslaughter and aggravated assault in a fatal beating outside Pat's King of Steaks in September 2021, as soccer fans brawled following a match. A 28-year-old New York accountant, Isidro Cortes, was killed and his father and another man were hospitalized.

Fla.'s population passes 23 million for first time

FL ORLANDO — Florida's population crossed the 23 million residents mark for the first time this year because of the influx of people moving from other states, according to state demographic estimates.

As of April 1 of this year, Florida had 23,002,597 residents, according to estimates released earlier this month by the state Demographic Estimating Conference.

Florida is the third most populous state in the U.S., trailing only California's 39.5 million residents and Texas' 30.5 million inhabitants. Florida added almost 359,000 people last year and has been adding about 350,000 to 375,000 people each year this decade, according to the estimates.

The population growth is expected to peak this year and get smaller with each following year for the rest of the 2020s as the final cohort of baby boomers entering retirement gets smaller, according to the estimates.

By the early 2030s, Florida's growth rate will be under 1% after hitting an expected 1.6% this year.

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Taurasi goes for 6th gold in basketball

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Diana Taurasi joked after the Tokyo Olympics that she would see everyone in Paris. The 42-year-old guard has turned the joke into reality, as she'll be playing in a record sixth Olympic games when the U.S. women's basketball team goes for its eighth consecutive gold medal later this month.

"Why not? I say this all the time, if I sign up to play, I sign up to play," she said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press. "I don't love how my last Olympics went personally. I think as a team we still have a lot to prove. I love playing USA Basketball. You play with the best in the world. Basketball is a team sport and if you have the opportunity to play with the best in the world, I'll always sign up."

Taurasi has been a mainstay on the Olympic women's team since graduating from UConn in 2004 and leading the Huskies to three consecutive NCAA championships. The WNBA's all-time scoring

leader with over 10,000 points, Taurasi is still playing at a high level. The Phoenix Mercury All-Star is averaging 16.1 points and 4.8 rebounds in her 20th season in the WNBA.

"No one has done it more than her. There's no substitute for that level of experience," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said. "We're going to count on her voice and that experience she has is incredible and valuable."

Taurasi is currently the fourth all-time leading scorer in Olympic history with 414 points. She's 74 points behind her former teammate Lisa Leslie for the top spot on the American list. She is already the all-time leader in games played with 38.

Her teammates respect her knowledge and insight, as there's very little she hasn't seen during her time playing on the international stage.

"She's seen it all," U.S. teammate Breanna Stewart said. "She knows exactly what to say before the coaches even come into the locker room."

Besides winning the five gold medals, Taurasi's favorite Olympic memory was the opening ceremonies at her first one in Athens in 2004.

"The whole world is watching this and when they call out all the countries and the United States lines up, there's this togetherness you don't get very often in sports," she said. "Every single walk of life, every discipline in sports is all in one place. It's pretty special. That moment is special at every Olympics."

So is winning. Taurasi doesn't know what it's like to lose at the Olympics.

The U.S. has never lost an Olympic game that Taurasi's competed in, going 38-0 during that stretch. That streak dates back even further than Taurasi; the last loss by the Americans was in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Taurasi said winning is ingrained in the culture of USA Basketball.

"You always have to wait your turn," she said. "In '04 I was getting Lisa (Leslie) and

Dawn (Staley) donuts. Learning the ropes. ... I tried to soak up all the knowledge I could. Then as I progressed in my career I got more responsibility. I became one of the leaders. I think that's what USA B does so great. It's not forced, it just happens which makes it even better."

Taurasi smiled when asked about the 2028 Olympics, which will be played in her hometown of Los Angeles. As much as she would love to play in front of her home fans, she'll be 46 at that point.

"I'm just as addicted to basketball right now as I was when I was 15 playing in my driveway. I have the same ambitions, the same passion, the same love for it," she said. "I show up every single day in Phoenix at the practice facility at 7:30 a.m. ready to go. That's how I treat it."

"However, when it's done it's done."

If this will be Taurasi's last Olympics, as Coach Reeve says, no basketball player has done it more — or better — than Taurasi.

Gauff picked to join James as US flagbearer

Associated Press

PARIS — Tennis star Coco Gauff will join LeBron James as a flagbearer for the U.S. Olympic team at Friday's opening ceremony.

Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion, is set to make her Olympic debut at the Paris Games and will be the first tennis athlete to carry the U.S. flag. She and James were chosen by Team USA athletes.

"I mean, for me, the Olympics is a top priority. I would say equal to the Grand Slams. I wouldn't put it above or below, just because I've never played before. This is my first time," Gauff said earlier this year. "Obviously, I always want to do well, try to get a medal."

Gauff and James, the 39-year-old leading scorer in NBA history, both compete in sports that are outside the traditional

Olympic world and get attention year-round, not just every four years.

Thousands of athletes will be part of a flotilla sailing along the Seine River at sunset toward the Eiffel Tower. It's a 3.7-mile route.

The 20-year-old Gauff made the American team for the Tokyo Games three years ago as a teenager but had to sit out those Olympics because she tested positive for COVID-19 right before she was supposed to fly to Japan.

Now Gauff, who is based in Florida, is a Grand Slam title winner in singles and doubles. She won her first major championship in New York in September, defeating Aryna Sabalenka in the singles final of the U.S. Open, then added her first Grand Slam doubles trophy at the French Open this June alongside Katerina Sinikova of the Czech Republic.

The same clay courts at Roland Garros used for the French Open will be where matches are going to be held for the Paris Olympics. The draw to set the brackets is Thursday, and play begins Saturday.

Gauff is seeded No. 2 in singles, matching her current WTA ranking behind No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland, and will be among the medal favorites.

She and her usual doubles partner, Jessica Pegula, are seeded No. 1 in women's doubles. It's possible Gauff could also be entered in mixed doubles, but those pairings have not been announced yet.

"I'm not putting too much pressure on it, because I really want to fully indulge in the experience," Gauff said about her Olympics debut. "Hopefully I can have the experience multiple times in my lifetime, (but) I'll treat it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Morocco fans storm field at Olympics

Associated Press

SAINT-ETIENNE, France — Morocco fans crashed the pitch to protest a late goal by Argentina at the opening match of the Paris Olympics men's soccer tournament, an angry and bizarre scene that left the game suspended for nearly two hours with only minutes remaining.

Moments before play resumed, the goal was disallowed by VAR for offside. Morocco held on for a 2-1 victory.

But not before a furious reaction from Morocco fans who thought they'd been denied a critical win.

Objects were thrown and invading Morocco fans were tackled by security on the field at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne after Argentina tied it 2-2 with a goal from Cristian Medina in the 16th minute of added time.

There were images of some Argentina players flinching when what appeared to be a flare was thrown. Bottles and cups were strewn over the field by the end.

It was initially thought that the full-time whistle had been blown. Even FIFA's website declared the game over. Video boards informed fans the match was suspended and they had to leave the stadium.

About an hour after the incident, organizers at the venue said the match was not officially over and VAR was reviewing whether the goal would stand.

Players eventually re-entered the field after a long delay and began to warm up before the game could be concluded. After warmups, players from both teams stood on the field in the otherwise empty stadium while an official reviewed the

video. He offered a brief explanation to Argentina's players after the goal was overturned while players on Morocco's bench celebrated.

Play went on for about three minutes after the resumption before the final whistle was blown.

In Paris, Uzbekistan lost the match but won over the crowd.

Uzbekistan fans chanted and danced throughout a 2-1 loss to Spain, to the rhythm of a furiously fast drum beat.

Toward the end of the game they encouraged large sections of the crowd to clap in unison with their hands raised above their heads, in the style of the Viking Thunder Clap first introduced by Iceland fans at the 2016 European Championship, which was held in France.

There was also an Uzbek version of the popular soccer song

"Don't Take Me Home" — accompanied by increasingly fast drumming.

The first goal of the Paris Games was scored by Spain right back Marc Pubill in the 29th minute. Eldor Shomurodov equalized with a penalty late in the first half for his 41st international goal.

Security was set to be much higher outside the same stadium on Wednesday night, when Israel played Mali in Group D amid ongoing tensions in Gaza.

Eight soccer matches were scheduled for Wednesday, two days before the opening ceremony. The rugby sevens also had 12 matches Wednesday, starting at 3:30 p.m., with Australia beating Samoa 21-14 at Stade de France, the national stadium, before host France drew 12-12 with the United States.

Losses to Michigan put Ohio State's Day on hot seat

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Ohio State coach Ryan Day sounds confident and comfortable discussing this year's football team.

Never mind the three Michigan banners hanging over his head and slightly behind the podium where he's speaking at the first of three Big Ten media days in Indianapolis — or that it's a not-so-subtle reminder about the looming stakes when he heads home.

Yes, despite winning 39 league games since taking over one of college football's most storied programs in 2018, the 45-year-old coach finds himself still answering questions about the three losses burning at the heart of the program — all to archrival Michigan.

"Our guys know what the expectation is. You've heard some of them say what their goals are," Day said Tuesday at Lucas Oil Stadium. "We want to win the

rivalry game, be right in this stadium right here and win this Big Ten championship and win a national championship."

Day comes here each year and reminds everyone what's on the list and in the proper order. In Columbus, Ohio, beating Michigan ranks above everything else.

So losing three straight, each of which sent Michigan to a Big Ten title game, still rankles the fan base. And even though the Wolverines cashed in on last year's opportunity by winning a third straight conference crown and their first national championship since sharing the crown with Nebraska in 1997, many Buckeyes fans contended it was tainted by the Wolverines' signal-stealing scheme.

Still, that hasn't made it any easier for fans to accept, or for Day's job security.

Despite going 11-2 each of the past three seasons, despite mak-

ing three playoff appearances and playing for a national title, despite reaching New Year's Six bowl games all five of Day's full seasons as coach, he finds himself squarely on the hot seat this fall.

Day understands why it's this way, as do his players.

"A bunch of junk came out after we lost to those guys a couple of times, about him not caring, which couldn't be more wrong," all-conference defensive end Jack Sawyer said. "He does get unfairly criticized at times, but he knows what he signed up to do and we all signed up to do the same thing and we've fallen short as well. If anything, it doesn't come back on him, it comes back on us as players."

It's a key reason a dozen players, including Sawyer, opted to return to campus rather than leave early for the NFL — to correct a perceived wrong.

And this just might be the

Buckeyes' year.

Ohio State heads into the fall dubbed by many as the preseason conference favorite. A media panel selected four of the 12 Buckeyes returnees to be the best at their positions. Plus, Day has handed former college and NFL head coach Chip Kelly play-calling duties and has added quarterback Will Howard, who threw 24 touchdown passes last season at Kansas State.

Day believes Howard's mobility and Kelly's innovative offensive style could change everything in Columbus.

"It starts with the quarterback and then it goes to the offensive line, the running backs, the receivers, and how that all gets put together," Day said. "I think he (Kelly) would tell you he's very excited about what he has in terms of the talent level on the perimeter, up front, the running backs, the quarterback options, the tight ends."

Ramírez, Guardians top Tigers to end slide

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — José Ramírez homered for the first time in July and drove in two runs as the Cleveland Guardians ended their three-game losing streak with a 5-4 win over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

Ramírez connected in the fifth inning off Joey Wentz (0-2) to help the AL Central-leading Guardians get just their third win in 10 games.

Ramírez added an RBI single in the sixth.

Cleveland's 60-40 record through 100 games is the club's best mark over the span since the 1999 team also went 60-40. The Guardians are the only AL team this season not to lose four in a row.

Ramírez's first homer since June 29 put Cleveland up 3-2 in the fifth.

The All-Star third baseman fell behind 1-2 against Wentz before yanking a fastball over the wall in left for his 24th homer, ending his long-ball drought after 74 at-bats.

"I'm sure the pressure valve got released for him," said Guardians manager Stephen Vogt. "It might've been the longest stretch of his life without hitting a home run there. This is one of the elite players in the league. He's going to go through those times."

Steven Kwan and rookie Jhonkensy Noel added solo homers for Cleveland, which has been in an offensive rut for weeks. The Guardians came in having scored two or fewer runs in six of their past eight games.

"We played Guardians baseball with a little bit of pop, had some good pitching," said Kwan, who leads the majors with a .347 average. "We had some situational hitting, some homers too. It felt like it was a complete team win. All pistons were firing on that one. That's a good way to get momentum rolling."

Wenceel Pérez hit a two-run homer for the Tigers, who are

11-4 since July 5.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1: Rookie Paul Skenes (6-1) lost for the first time in 12 career major league starts, giving up Alec Burleson's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning that lifted visiting St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Pitching for the first time since starting for the National League in last week's All-Star Game, the 22-year-old right-hander pitched past the seventh inning for the first time in the major leagues and had 91 pitches through eight innings.

Padres 4, Nationals 0: Luis Arraez and Jurickson Profar homered on consecutive pitches in the fifth inning, and visiting San Diego blanked Washington.

Randy Vásquez pitched six innings to earn his first victory since June 22 for San Diego, which has won three in a row.

Marlins 6, Orioles 3: Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Nick Gordon each drove in two runs for host Miami, Jesús Sánchez homered and Kyle Tyler and four relievers held Baltimore without a run after the third inning.

Baltimore, which slipped into a tie with Cleveland for the best record in the American League at 60-40, was slowed after losing second baseman Jorge Mateo and starting pitcher Albert Suárez due to injuries in the third inning.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 2: Brandon Lowe hit a two-run home run and visiting Tampa Bay won for the fourth time in five games by beating Toronto.

Right-hander Shawn Armstrong opened for the Rays, exciting after striking out four in two scoreless innings. Left-hander Tyler Alexander (3-3) followed and struck out four over three shutout innings.

Mets 3, Yankees 2: Jeff McNeil kept up his sudden power surge with a two-run homer that snapped a sixth-inning tie, and the visiting Mets held off the Yankees in their Subway Series opener.

Jose Quintana (5-6) and five relievers combined on a five-hitter at Yankee Stadium as the Mets (52-48) matched their season high of four games over .500. They are 3-0 against their crosstown rivals, including a two-game sweep at Citi Field last month.

Rangers 3, White Sox 2: Right-hander Jon Gray allowed one run pitching into the eighth inning and retired the last 15 batters he faced as host Texas beat Chicago.

After Andrew Vaughn's RBI single with two outs in the third inning, the White Sox didn't get another batter on base against Gray (5-4). The last was pinch-hitter Tommy Pham for the second out of the eighth, when shortstop Jonathan Ornelas made a backhanded stop and was falling away from first base when he made an incredible throw.

Phillies 3, Twins 0: Nick Castellanos hit a two-run double to cap a three-run ninth inning, and visiting Philadelphia beat Minnesota.

Making his first start since July 9, ace Zack Wheeler threw seven dominant innings for Philadelphia, which has the best record in the majors (64-37). He was matched by Twins rookie Simeon Woods Richardson, who struck out five in six shutout innings, keeping the Phillies down until they took control in the ninth against Minnesota closer Jhoan Duran (5-5).

Diamondbacks 6, Royals 2: Jordan Montgomery allowed one run over five innings to win in his return from a layoff of nearly one month caused by a knee injury, and visiting Arizona beat Kansas City.

Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer and scored three runs.

Red Sox 6, Rockies 0: Tyler O'Neill homered twice, Cooper Criswell tossed seven shutout innings and visiting Boston beat Colorado to snap a four-game skid.

O'Neill hit a two-run shot in

the first inning and then crushed an 89-mph sinker from Ty Blach (3-6) 465 feet to the concourse in left field in the third inning to give the Red Sox a 6-0 lead.

Angels 5, Mariners 1: José Soriano allowed one run in 7½ innings, Luis Rengifo delivered a key two-run single in his return from the injured list and visiting Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Los Angeles won for the sixth time in the past eight games thanks to another strong pitching performance from Soriano (6-7), who pitched more than seven innings and threw 100 pitches for the first time this season.

Brewers 1, Cubs 0: Brice Turang drove in the only run of the game on a groundout, which was all visiting Milwaukee needed in its shutout of Chicago.

Trevor Megill worked the ninth for his 20th save and made a winner of Elvis Peguero (6-3), the second of four Milwaukee relievers.

Athletics 8, Astros 2: Lawrence Butler hit one of his team's five homers, fell a single short of the cycle and made a tremendous throw from right field to cut down a runner at the plate as host Oakland beat Houston.

Brent Rooker, Seth Brown, Zack Gelof and Shea Langeliers also connected to help the A's hand the AL West-leading Astros a second consecutive defeat.

Dodgers 5, Giants 2: Shohei Ohtani had two hits and drove in three runs, rookie Landon Knack pitched five solid innings and host Los Angeles extended its winning streak to five games by beating San Francisco.

Tyler Fitzgerald became the first Giants rookie to homer in five consecutive games with a solo shot in the second inning. Fitzgerald had three hits and drove in both runs.